

to get by, but on the whole we held things together pretty well. By using winter rules we avoided any squawks about the fairways but many players did beef because conditions were not pre-war.

We are now operating our diningroom on a concession basis and this includes the locker room as well. This may be the answer to the catering problem, although in the main this will probably always be for each individual club to solve according to their own particular needs.

We had a shortage of caddies during week days but on the whole there was enough boys to go round week-ends. Doubling up had to be resorted to most of the time with the result that Sunday bags became of general use. This may have caused some slight inconveniences but I am sure that if this was not done we could not compete in the labor market. It is either increase the caddie fees or double up.

Getting back to the golf course, I wish to say that we are blessed with loyal employees and that we are equipped with a small machine shop in which we are able to do most of our own repairs. We have not found any short cuts in our operation but just concentrated on the greens and tees and spread out what we had left on the fairways and rough. The traps were left more or less unranked and unsickled but teeing up was allowed to offset this.

About the only new development that I have worked out is a machine which may cure the packed condition of grounds. This machine has other varied uses but mainly I have been trying to get something that would be better than spiking. Spiking or punching holes does put a green out of play for a while and packs still more the areas which the spikes does not enter so that, on the whole, spiking did not do much good.

The machine we build has knife steel discs and the principle used is the same as the disc harrow excepting that the cuts are verticle instead of an angle. The depth of cut is governed by the weight used on a tray directly over the axis and the condition of the ground; the wetter the ground the less weight needed for penetration.

To prevent the turf from lifting I have skids riding between the knives and the pressure of the skids on the turf is regulated by spring tension. The cuts made in our own case were about three inches deep, and, as the knives are quite thin, it does not put the green out of play. We do the job on each green in 15 minutes as we use the Overgreen for motive power.

Naturally, many greenkeepers would be horrified at the idea of slicing up a green, but I can assure you it works. Topdressing is immediately available to the roots and there are no puddles after a rainstorm. Inasmuch as the space between the cuts is regulated by whatever width of collar

or spacer is used, this machine is invaluable for cutting grainy greens.

I look for more play this year and a more generous budget, even though I am now caddie master along with my other jobs and work seven days a week I still love it. I have golf balls and other merchandise and I do not complain.

Beyond "Hello with a Smile" Is Hard Work

By EM BRAAK

Em Braak, who has been a golf pro for 23 years, and for the past five years lessor of the Minnetonka CC, Minneapolis, prior to the time it was sold, gives tips lessons from his experience in successfully conducting a golf club on a wartime basis.

Braak's statement shows the importance of having men with savvy on the job. He says:

Five years prior to leasing Minnetonka I acted as pro-manager. I feel that the past ten years' experience has left me capable of handling any situation that may arise at a golf club.

I set up my budget during the winter months, so when spring did arrive I was ready to go. I never overlooked the fact that a golf club's main income was from those who played golf, and therefore I made every effort to see that the golf course got the largest share of attention, although I kept the dining room and locker rooms up, and always presentable to members and their guests.

During the winter I would contact all the business revenue in the dining room. I always maintained a rule that "a hello with a smile" would pay big dividends. Operating a club is no easy job, it means hard work and long hours during the playing season.

The past two years the golf professional has been called upon to take over many duties he never before experienced, and has had to keep the ball rolling with his knowledge of golf.

First among wartime needs at many clubs is easing playing conditions by eliminating bunkers and widening fairways. That gives the player a better chance to score and he derives more pleasure and relaxation out of the game. This method will prevail after the war if the clubs expect to maintain a membership, and get on a paying basis. Public courses have proven this point in all sections of the country. The fellowship we get out of golf we are willing to pay for if we enjoy our games. I have seen several players quit golf just because they loose too many balls, and a few dollars in bets, due to the condition of a course. The maintenance of a course is cut considerably by the elimination of heavy rough and unfair bunkers, making conditions more unpleasant for every one.